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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 5225.0215-00



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

Kazuo SUMITA et al.

Application No.: 09/915,415

Filed: July 27, 2001

For: COMMODITY DATA  
MANAGEMENT APPARATUS  
AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

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)  
) Group Art Unit: 2161  
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) Examiner: Unassigned  
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JAN 25 2002

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

English abstracts of the Japanese patent documents are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

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documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.


If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 22, 2002

By:

 Reg No 24,014  
for Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 31,744

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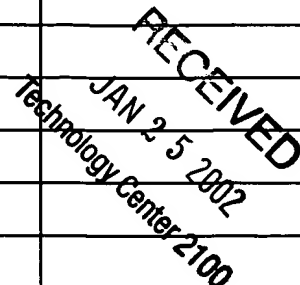
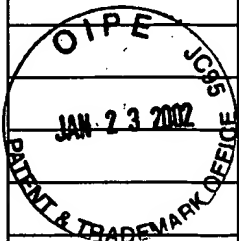
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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

|                               |                       |
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| Atty. Docket No. 5225.0215-00 | Serial No. 09/915,415 |
| Applicant Kazuo SUMITA et al. |                       |
| Filing Date July 27, 2001     | Group: 2161           |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
|                   |                 |            |      |       |           |                            |
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|                   |                 |            |      |       |           |                            |



## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 08063668 A      | 03 Aug. 1996     | Japan   | G07G  | 1/00      | English Abstract      |
| 06130922 A      | 13 May 1994      | Japan   | G09G  | 5/00      | English Abstract      |
|                 |                  |         |       |           |                       |
|                 |                  |         |       |           |                       |
|                 |                  |         |       |           |                       |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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|---|---|
| Examiner  | Date Considered   |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |   |
| Form PTO 1449   | Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce |